



**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**March 20, 2008**

**For immediate release**

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## **TEST SOILS BEFORE SPRING FERTILIZER OR MANURE APPLICATION**

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Jeremy Klatt at the Mason City field office, (641) 424-4073 or [jeremy.klatt@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:jeremy.klatt@dnr.iowa.gov) .

DES MOINES – Crop and confinement animal producers who use manure as fertilizer should schedule soil sampling this spring before applying commercial or manure fertilizer. Sampling after fertilizer or manure application may not give an accurate representation of the nutrient status of the field.

The soil sample test results for phosphorus and for acidity (pH) will be needed by many producers who need to update their plans with the phosphorus index starting in September. The phosphorus or P index takes into consideration the lay of the land, the distance from a stream and the phosphorus that is available in the soil.

“Producers have a narrow window this spring and next fall to get soil sampling done for the P index which many producers need to incorporate into their manure management plans in 2008 and 2009,” said Jeremy Klatt, a DNR environmental specialist.

“This is the year that brings everyone on board,” Klatt said. “The index has been phased in over the last four years, but this is the year that everyone who submitted manure management plans prior to April of 2002 must start using it.”

Klatt advised producers to do the soil testing now and to allow plenty of time to run the P index and revise their manure management plans. That way if producers find that they need additional fields for manure application, they have time to find them.

Crop producers who accept manure from confinements may also want to talk to their manure provider about how the P index could affect manure application on their land and if they need to have soil samples taken.

“Take at least one sample for every 10 acres of the field,” he said. “Generally, producers should follow Iowa State University’s soil sampling recommendations or another credible method.” Soil samples taken in the last four years can be used, if they meet the minimum requirements.

Producers may keep the soil test results on site, but must submit a complete MMP using the phosphorus index for each field once every four years. The complete MMP and soil loss calculations (detailed RUSLE2 report) and P Index calculations must be sent to the local DNR field office.

The DNR will not be granting exemptions or extensions of the deadlines for the P index-based plans. See the DNR Web site for more information about the P index:

[www.iowadnr.gov/afo/mmp.html#phosphorus](http://www.iowadnr.gov/afo/mmp.html#phosphorus) or  
[www.iowadnr.gov/afo/files/pindex\\_fs.pdf](http://www.iowadnr.gov/afo/files/pindex_fs.pdf).

Check the Iowa State University soil fertility Web site for information about soil sampling at [extension.agron.iastate.edu/soilfertility/](http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/soilfertility/). Finally, more information about the P index can be found in back issues of Odor and Nutrient Management at the Iowa Manure Management Action Group’s Web site at <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/immag/pubsnl.html>.

*Writer: Karen Grimes*

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## **DNR TO PRESENT WATER QUALITY STANDARDS AFTER RECEIVING 2,000 PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Adam Schnieders at (515) 281-7409 or [Adam.Schnieders@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Adam.Schnieders@dnr.iowa.gov) or Lori McDaniel at (515) 281-8094 or [Lori.McDaniel@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Lori.McDaniel@dnr.iowa.gov).

DES MOINES — After receiving more than 2,000 comments from the public, the DNR plans to present its water quality standards recommendations to the Environmental Protection Commission for final approval in April.

Based on information from the public the DNR is giving additional levels of protection to 47 segments of Iowa rivers and streams. Most of the comments were focused on about 20 river and stream segments.

“We were very pleased with the large public response and having Iowans engaged in this process. Their comments led us to make these changes,” said Richard Leopold, DNR Director. “Iowans care about protecting their rivers and streams, and we’re glad to partner with them in this effort.”

Since July 2006, a small number of DNR staff has logged more than 30,000 hours working on water quality standards, including 3,000 hours reviewing public comments. Staff also completed almost 6,300 assessments of streams at more than 3,000 locations.

Water quality standards protect fish and other aquatic life in streams, as well as the people who play in or on the water. Based on the physical characteristics of streams and how are used, they receive different levels of protection, or “designations.” The DNR asked how the public used certain streams.

“In Iowa, we have large rivers like the Mississippi, but many smaller perennial streams that can be as wide as a doorway and as deep as a coffee cup,” said the DNR’s Adam Schnieders. “There are different types of aquatic life in these streams and different types of recreation possible. So different levels of protection are warranted, based on the types of uses these rivers and streams could support.”

Prior to 2006, these smaller streams received limited protection for aquatic life and no protection for recreation. While waterskiing may not be possible in these small streams, they may be used for other recreation like trapping and minnow seining, which pose a significantly smaller chance of ingesting measurable amounts of water that could pose a health risk. Because of the varied types of recreation possible, larger streams and rivers are afforded different protection than smaller streams.

To improve the amount of protection on Iowa streams, the DNR followed federal Clean Water Act requirements, presuming that all perennial streams are “fishable and swimmable.” However, the Clean Water Act points out that this presumption will not be appropriate for all waters. For those streams, a process called a Use Attainability Analysis can help determine what protections a stream should receive based on what it is capable of supporting. The DNR used this process, along with public comments, to determine what these streams are capable of supporting and what level of protection they need.

*Writer: Jessie Brown*

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**YIELD DATA UPDATED FOR MANURE MANAGEMENT PLANS**

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DES MOINES – Producers who are developing manure management plans can use updated yield data for corn and soybeans.

The updated yield data is used for calculating manure application rates based on how much nitrogen or phosphorus a growing crop will need.

Each year the National Agricultural Statistical Service calculates average yields in all Iowa counties. Producers can use the county averages from the last five years to determine their optimum yield for developing a manure management plan for the DNR.

Producers can find the updates in Appendix A of the DNR's manure management plan. It's available in DNR field offices and on the DNR Web site at [www.iowadnr.gov/afo/forms.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/afo/forms.html) .

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## **DNR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS**

**MEDIA CONTACT: Jessie Brown at (515) 281-5131 or [Jessie.Brown@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Jessie.Brown@dnr.iowa.gov)**

DES MOINES — The DNR has taken the following enforcement actions. The following are only briefs; please contact Jessie Brown of the DNR for more information at (515) 281-5131.

Enforcement actions, including copies of the original orders and contact information, are available on the DNR's Web site at [www.iowadnr.gov/legal/eactions.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/legal/eactions.html). The Web listing offers orders first taken in 2007 or 2008 (amendments to orders issued prior to 2007 are not listed).

### **Administrative Orders**

Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the order or 60 days to pay the penalty.

#### **Chickasaw County**

- Cliff's Place, Inc., of Nashua, was issued an administrative order to sample its public water supply for bacteria and nitrate regularly, provide public notice of water tests and install nitrate removal equipment and disinfection equipment or connect to an approved alternate water source. The order also instructs Cliff's Place to perform operating, monitoring and recordkeeping requirements for the nitrate removal and disinfection facilities, complete a viability assessment for its public water supply, and pay a penalty of \$5,800 and fees of \$250. Cliff's Place has appealed the order.

#### **Washington County**

- Larry Fishback, dba Hidden Valley Mobile Home Park, of Washington, was issued an administrative order to submit a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit application, to submit the \$340 fee for operation of a wastewater treatment facility, to timely submit monthly operation reports and to pay a \$2,000 penalty. The order is in regard to failure to renew an NPDES permit for a mobile home park in Washington County. Fishback has appealed the order.

#### **Buena Vista, Sac Counties**

- Bedrock Gravel, Inc. (Bedrock Gravel) of Storm Lake, and Blake Wirtjers, Buster Wirtjers and James Wirtjers, all of Sac City, were issued an amended administrative order to remove and properly dispose of all waste tires from the Bedrock junkyard, submit receipts verifying the proper disposal of all waste tires, and pay a \$10,000 penalty. This amends a 2007 administrative order regarding air quality and solid waste violations. Bedrock Gravel has appealed.

#### **Consent Orders**

A consent order is issued as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

#### **Cass County**

- The City of Atlantic agreed in a consent order to make improvements to its wastewater disposal system and to pay stipulated penalties if deadlines are not met. The consent order is in regard to achieving and maintaining compliance with applicable effluent and water quality standards.

#### **Clinton County**

- Clinton Community School District, of Clinton, agreed in a consent order to comply with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, including maintaining and implementing its Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan. The district also agreed to pay a \$3,000 penalty. The consent order is in regard to storm water violations at the construction site of a new school building.

#### **Keokuk County**

- Chris Dietrich, dba Dietrich Custom Pumping, of Webster, agreed in a consent order to pay a \$4,000 penalty. The consent order is in regard to prohibited commercial application of manure.

#### **Madison County**

- The City of Winterset agreed in a consent order to timely submit its renewal application for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and to pay a \$4,000 penalty.

**Muscatine County**

- Timothy Maxwell, of Moscow, agreed in a consent order to timely submit a complete manure management plan (MMP) in the future and to pay a \$2,500 penalty. The consent order is in regard to failure to timely submit a complete Iowa Phosphorus Index MMP.

**O'Brien County**

- Chris Hunt and Steven Hunt, dba Hunt Brothers Feedlot, of Granville, agreed in a consent order to operate and maintain animal feeding operation structures in compliance with rules and regulations, to pay \$520 in fish restitution and a \$3,500 penalty. The consent order is in regard to a manure release from an open cattle feedlot that contributed to a fish kill in Deep Creek.

**Pottawattamie County**

- Pheasant Ridge Farms, of Council Bluffs, agreed in a consent order to pay a \$9,000 penalty. The consent order is in regard to a manure release from an open cattle feedlot that caused water quality violations in an unnamed Little Mosquito Creek tributary.

**Union County**

- Wellman Dynamics, Inc., of Creston, agreed in a consent order to submit a plan for the proper handling of industrial wastes and to pay \$7,035.04 in fish restitution and a \$7,500 penalty. The consent order was in regard to a prohibited discharge that led to a fish kill in Creston.

**Consent Amendments**

A consent amendment is issued in settlement of a previous administrative order or to amend a pre-existing consent order. A consent amendment indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

**Guthrie County**

- Gettler Dairy, of Adair, agreed in a consent amendment to comply with minimum manure control, construction permit and manure management plan (MMP) requirements. Gettler Dairy also agreed to pay a \$1,500 penalty. This amends a 2004 administrative order regarding animal feeding operation violations.

**Muscatine County**

- Ted Dickey, dba Dickey Farms, agreed in a consent amendment to remove all liquid and solid manure from his earthen manure structures and pits, and properly land apply the manure. Dickey also agreed to pay a \$4,000 penalty and stipulated penalties if deadlines are not met. This amends a 2006 administrative order regarding animal feeding operation, air quality and solid waste violations.

*Writer: Jessie Brown*